



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
WALLA WALLA DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
201 NORTH THIRD AVENUE
WALLA WALLA, WASHINGTON 99362-1876

March 4, 2005

Planning, Programs, and Project
Management Division

Department of Ecology
RECEIVED

MAR 11 REC'D

Mr. Brenden McFarland
Environmental Coordination Section Manager
Shorelines and Environmental Assistance Program
Washington State Department of Ecology
P.O. Box 47600
Olympia, Washington 98504-7600

Shorelands & Environmental
Assistance Program

Dear Mr. McFarland:

We request an extension of Water Quality Certificate/Modification Order #1155 that you issued on May 4, 2004 for the Lower Snake River, Winter 2004-2005 Maintenance Dredging in response to the Corps' Public Notice CENWW-PM-PD-E 03-01. This certificate was issued for a one-year period and expired March 1, 2005. We were unable to perform the proposed dredging and in-water disposal work in the winter of 2004-2005. We recently prepared a draft *Lower Snake River Navigation Maintenance Environmental Impact Statement* (EIS) and identified maintenance dredging with in-water disposal as the preferred alternative. We are currently proposing to perform this dredging and disposal in winter 2005-2006. Because the preferred alternative in the draft EIS is very similar to the action addressed by the existing certification, the Corps is requesting a five-year extension of the existing certification.

When we distributed the draft EIS for public review, we also notified the public that we were requesting an extension in the existing certification. We asked the public to send any comments regarding extending the certification to the Department of Ecology by April 4, 2005.

We are enclosing for your review and information a copy of the draft EIS that contains the Section 404(b)(1) evaluation (Appendix C) and the current version of the monitoring plan (Appendix D). The monitoring plan includes provisions for water quality monitoring. If you have any questions regarding our environmental documentation or our request for an extension, please contact Ms. Sandy Simmons at 509-527-7265.

Sincerely,

fs Diane E. Karnish
Chief, Environmental Compliance Section

Enclosure